(c) to (e) In response to an enquiry floated by Coal India Limited (CIL) inviting private investments in setting up of coal washeries 42 offers were received. On the basis of the discussions held between CIL and the concerned parties and also the valuation done by CIL, 21 offers were prequalified However, in view of the poor response from the prequalified parties for investment in setting up of coal washeries on build-own-operate basis, Coal India Limited (CIL) has now floated a global tender inviting pre-qualifying bids from potential investors in India and abroad for development of washeries on build own-oprate basis.

Quality control of coal supplied to power stations

777. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Controller grade the quality of coal supplied by tests;

(b) if so, whether the coal controller reviews the grading from time to time depending upon the laboratory test results;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Coal Controller downgraded coal from Sasti and Dhoptala Coal Mines of Western Coalfields Limited for Raichur Thermal Power Station from Grade 'D' to Grade "E" in April, 1992 although actual laboratory tests revealed the grade to be "G" and thereafter the Coal Controller issued orders to keep in abeyance the aforesaid downgrading;

(d) whether an independent and responsible authority like the Central Electricity Authority or the Central Power Research Institute ever carried out laboratory tests about the quality of coal supplied by the coal mines to the Power Stations; and

(e) if so, when were such investigations carried out and what were the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Grade of coal of any colliery is declared by owner, agent or Manager of the colliery in accordance with the standard laid down by the Coal Controller under Colliery Control Order, 1945. Physical verification of the grade can be done by the Coal Controller either suo-moto or for settlement of dispute arising out of declaration of grade.

(c) As per Coal Controller's information, coal from Sasti and Dhopta coal mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) despatched from Panderpaoni siding, was revised from Grade 'D' to Grade 'E'. On joint representation from WCL and Raichur Thermal Power Station that coal received from Panderpaoni side was generally satisfactory, the order of down-grading by Coal Controller was kept in abeyance. More despatch samples were drawn from the coal despatched from Panderpaoni sidings and since these samples confirmed to the declared grade, no further action for downgrading coal was taken.

(d) and (e) Under the Colliery Control Order, 1945 Coal Controller is the independent authority to draw samples for verification of grades and settlement of disputes relating to quality etc. of coal supplied from various collieries.

Pit-head stock of Coal India Limited

778. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the pit-head stock of Coal India Limited during the last three years i.e. year ending March, 1992, 1993 and 1994;